



# NEWSLETTER 01 24

**Dear EPAC/EACN members,  
colleagues, and friends,**

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the remarkable number of contributions you have provided for this newsletter. The EPAC/EACN Secretariat is delighted to present you with this edition, showcasing not only the valuable input from our network members but also featuring news from the International Anticorruption Academy. Additionally, this issue includes essential information on international conferences and upcoming events.

As always, we welcome your contributions on future or past events, conferences, seminars, training courses, studies, project findings, and more, to be included in our next newsletter. Your active participation enriches our community and enhances the exchange of knowledge.

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**Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat**

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## EPAC/EACN BOARD NEWS

**In its first official meeting in 2024, the recently elected EPAC/EACN Board discussed various matters and formally approved its Work Programme for 2024-2025. Bucharest, Romania has been chosen as the location for the next EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly, scheduled for the end of 2024.**

The EPAC/EACN Board convened in a hybrid format for the first time in 2024 following its election at the Dublin Conference in 2023. The Board initiated its activities by approving the Work Programme for its two-year tenure. The Board structured the Programme around three key themes: supporting the Rule of Law, ensuring the Transfer of Knowledge, and enhancing Cooperation and Communication. The action plan includes advocating for the Rule of Law principle through both internal and external communication, facilitating best practice exchange visits among EPAC/EACN members, conducting training workshops and webinars, showcasing selected best practices of EPAC/EACN members, and hosting podcast interviews with anti-corruption and police oversight experts on the EPAC/EACN website.

Additionally, the Board engaged in discussions regarding prospective hosts for the 2025 Annual Conference, as well as the potential for arranging an EPAC/EACN workshop as part of the 21st International Anti-Corruption Conference taking place from 18-21 June in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The next Board meeting will take place on 22 May in Bucharest (Romania).



## 2nd EPAC/EACN Board Meeting in Bucharest, Romania

The EPAC/EACN Board is currently engaged in the meticulous planning of the Annual Conference & General Assembly set to take place in November 2024. Their primary focus is on curating an immensely captivating program for this year's event. The event will include a variety of dynamic sessions, renowned speakers, and unparalleled networking opportunities.

The meeting centered around the Best Anti-Corruption Practice Exchange (BACPE) project, wherein the EPAC/EACN Board and Secretariat explored strategies to increase Member participation. The aim is to develop a platform that is dynamic and effective, with the purpose of enabling the exchange of insights and fostering excellence across EPAC/EACN network.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Direcția Generală Anticorupție for their kind reception and generous hospitality.





## EPAC/EACN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference to take place in Bucharest!

EPAC/EACN Secretariat is delighted to announce that the 23<sup>rd</sup> EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference & General Assembly is scheduled to take place on **November 26-27 in Bucharest, Romania**. This event will bring together professionals from various fields to engage in insightful discussions, networking opportunities, and collaborative efforts.

The conference will provide a platform for attendees to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and explore innovative solutions to challenges in our field. We are confident that this gathering will foster meaningful connections and contribute to the advancement of our shared goals.

Further details regarding the conference agenda, registration process, and accommodation options will be shared with you in the coming weeks. We look forward to your presence and active engagement at the EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference & General Assembly.

We anticipate a productive and rewarding conference in Bucharest!



## BEST ANTI-CORRUPTION PRACTICE EXCHANGE PROJECT ENTERS SECOND ROUND

**The European Partners against Corruption/European contact-point network against corruption (EPAC/EACN) is thrilled to inform you that the second round of the Best Anti-Corruption Practice Exchange Project (BACPE) has begun.**

During the first phase of the BACPE initiative, which started in May of the previous year, there was notable involvement with 20 different institutions actively participating and exchanging valuable practices.

The second round application has already started featuring three new topics:

- Anti-Corruption awareness raising
- Criminal investigation of corruption and fraud
- Big Data analysis

Participation in the exchange is open to all EPAC/EACN members. Just like in the previous round, we extend a kind invitation to members of EPAC/EACN to participate through study visits. Each institution is advised to select three experienced employees who have at least five years of expertise in the chosen subject.

EPAC/EACN members who wish to embark on an exchange visit to another member institution are required to:

- Submit an application form based on the selected topic.
- Nominate three employees who have more than five years of experience in the selected topic.
- Indicate the host authority that they intend to visit.
- Provide a provisional visit agenda, which covers two full days of working meetings.
- Provide a free-format written consent from the chosen host authority confirming its ability and willingness to host the visit between April 2, 2024, and February 28, 2025.

To ensure the widest dissemination of anti-corruption practices and foster international cooperation, each institution is limited to a maximum of two visits in total. Additionally, only one institution from each country is permitted to participate under each topic.

We kindly ask you to fill out the [Registration form](#) by June 28, 2024, and send it to the project team via e-mail to [epac-eacn@stt.lt](mailto:epac-eacn@stt.lt). Once the registration period ends, the topics will be closed. The selected applications for best practice exchange visits will be organized between 2 April, 2024, and February 28, 2025.

In case you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via [epac-eacn@stt.lt](mailto:epac-eacn@stt.lt).

The BACPE aims to facilitate the sharing of innovative strategies, successful initiatives, and valuable insights among anti-corruption professionals. By participating in this project, representatives will have the opportunity to showcase their institution's achievements, learn from the experiences of others, and contribute to the collective effort in fighting corruption.

We look forward to your active involvement in the Best Anti-Corruption Practice Exchange Project and to the valuable insights and experiences you will bring to the table.

**Additional information:** <https://www.epac-eacn.org/practice-exchange>



Presented here are a collection of captured moments from select visits, during which committed professionals convened to exchange knowledge and showcase best practices.





## NATIONAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE OF HUNGARY



**On 07 December 2023, the National Protective Service of Hungary organised an international event (Quiz) in Budapest on the occasion of the World Anti-Corruption Day with the participation of police students from six countries.**

The event brought together police cadets from Austria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Serbia, Slovakia and Hungary, who were studying law enforcement in full-time education, to compare their knowledge on the prevention of corruption and to raise awareness. However, the National Protective Service, the organiser of this event, not only tested the cadets' preparedness and knowledge, but also wanted to know how they, as young people and future police officers, perceive this harmful social phenomenon, its destructive effects and how they think about an effective and efficient prevention.



Source: National Protective Service of Hungary

This interactive event is one of those innovative tools that can be used to guide young people in their ethical behaviour, raise their awareness and reinforce the values that can guide them in their professional and personal lives.

What made this programme interesting is that the value-based experiences of the young generation were shared in a multicultural environment,

through their personal experiences, with the aim of further strengthening individual and organisational values through an awareness-raising process.

One of the priorities of the National Protective Service for 2024 is to raise awareness among young people at national and international level in the framework of its prevention activities. We will keep you informed about our programmes and achievements.

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ANDALUSIAN ANTI FRAUD OFFICE (OAAF)



OFICINA ANDALUZA ANTIFRAUDE

## PROMOTING INTEGRITY IN THE ANDALUSIAN PUBLIC SECTOR THROUGHOUT THE OIP PROJECT

**The Andalusian Anti Fraud Office (OAAF) is releasing a pilot project to accompany public sector organisations in their race to develop integrity plans following the OIP methodology, defined by the own OAAF.**

The OIP project (Organizaciones por la Integridad Pública – Organisations for Public Integrity) is an innovative experience developed by the Andalusian Anti Fraud Office, to be released April this year. Kicking off with the public presentation of the project in the Andalusian Parliament, on April 25th, the OIP project will start with five organisations which will be part of the pilot experience: the Andalusian Cooperation and Development Agency (AACID), the Andalusian Studies Center (CENTRA), the Province of Cádiz Council (Diputación de Cádiz), the Council of Las Gabias in Granada (Ayuntamiento de Las Gabias) and the Pablo de Olavide University (UPO). These five organisations, representing a variety of public sector entities, will be accompanied by the OAAF to design and put in practice their integrity plans.

These integrity plans will be the result of an internal risk assessment made by the organisation with the OAAF's assistance, and after a come-and-go evaluation, and assisted too by a Committee of experts, the organisations will define a set of prevention measures to cover all the risks previously identified.

Focusing on the likelihood of the risks and the possible impact on their organisations, participants must make sure their integrity plans cover the possible fraud or misconduct occurring in their institutions. Finally, the prevention plan will be further assessed by the OAAF, attaining thus a certification of integrity issued by our office. The goal is to add more and more public organisations to better their prevention structures against fraud and corruption.

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**NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CENTRE (NAC),  
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**



**AN ORGANIZED CRIMINAL GROUP, INVESTIGATED BY THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CENTRE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

**An organised criminal group, investigated for the embezzlement of 29 plots worth 135 million lei from the heritage of Chisinau City Hall**

The officers of the National Anti-corruption Centre (NAC) have carried out new searches in a criminal case regarding the dispossession of public land from the Chisinau City Hall.

According to the investigated facts, the decision-makers of a public association, in complicity with identified persons, acting in the interest of an organized criminal group, dispossessed the City Hall of Chisinau municipality of public lands in the inner city of Chisinau municipality, qualified actions according to the provisions of art. 361 paragraph (2), art. 27, 190 par. (5), art. 190 para. (5), art. 328 para. (3) lit. c), art. 46, 243 par. (3) lit. a) and b) of the Criminal Code.

The members of the organized criminal group, including two bailiffs, organized fictitious auctions between 2014-2016, after which they came into the ownership of 29 lands in the public domain of the local public administration, thus causing a damage of over 135,000 000 lei to the Chisinau City Hall.

Thus, to accumulate evidence on the case, 5 searches were authorized at the residences, offices and means of transport owned/used by two accomplices, and objects and documents of interest to the criminal case were seized. The persons targeted in the criminal investigation actions have the procedural status of suspect/accused.

Criminal investigation actions take place under the procedural leadership of the Anticorruption Prosecution's Office.

**Contact:** Stela Rusu, Deputy head of the International Cooperation Directorate of NAC, [stela.rusu@cna.md](mailto:stela.rusu@cna.md)

**Additional Information:** <https://www.cna.md/libview.php?l=en&idc=5&id=5381&t=/Mass-Media/Events/An-organized-criminal-group-investigated-by-the-NAC-for-the-embezzlement-of-29-plots-worth-135-million-lei-from-the-heritage-of-Chisinau-City-Hall>

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**ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE PENITENTIARY SYSTEM**

**The National Anti-corruption Centre in partnership with the National Administration of Penitentiaries, has launched an anti-corruption campaign for employees of the penitentiary system**

A new anti-corruption campaign was launched by the National Anti-corruption Centre (NAC) in partnership with the National Administration of Penitentiaries (NAP), which aims to train employees from the prison system in

the Republic of Moldova. The activity involves the organization of 20 information sessions and is part of the NAC's priorities regarding the cultivation of intolerance towards the phenomenon of corruption and increasing the degree of institutional integrity among public officials.

After the lectures, there will be an evaluation of the knowledge gained by the penitentiary employees in the traditional Pro-Integrity Quizzes, and upon their completion, a championship between penitentiary institutions will be organized. The team that will place first, will receive the "Integrity Cup".

To be mentioned that the NAC organizes information campaigns for public agents from various state and private institutions. The purpose of these campaigns is to promote the culture of integrity among civil servants and business employees, the training being part of the NAC's program of activities on the anti-corruption education component.

At this stage, the Center simultaneously carries out several anti-corruption campaigns aimed at the educational system, health, construction, local public administration, etc. During the lectures, the audience is informed about the need to eradicate the phenomenon of corruption, to denounce acts of corruption and the obligation to ensure a climate of institutional integrity.

**Contact:** Stela Rusu, Deputy head of the International Cooperation Directorate of NAC, [stela.rusu@cna.md](mailto:stela.rusu@cna.md)

**Additional Information:** <https://www.cna.md/libview.php?l=en&idc=5&id=5407&t=/Mass-Media/Events/NAC-and-NAP-has-launched-an-anti-corruption-campaign-for-employees-of-the-penitentiary-system>

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## INVESTIGATIONS OF THE "BANK FRAUD" CRIMINAL CASE

### Searches on the territory of the French Republic in the "Bank Fraud" criminal case

Between January 9-11, 2024, prosecutors and officers from the Anticorruption Prosecution Office, together with officers from the Criminal Assets Recovery Agency (CARA) of the National Anti-corruption Centre, assisted employees from the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police, a subdivision of the National Police of France, in carrying out searches on the territory of the French Republic, in the context of the execution of requests for international legal assistance in the "Bank Fraud" criminal case.

The criminal prosecution actions were carried out in the Department of Haute-Savoie, in Sciez and the towns of Combloux, Chamonix Mont-Blanc, Sallanches and Douvaine, between January 9-11, 2024 and targeted three real estate properties, identified through the exchange of information and coordination of efforts with the French authorities. The respective properties were registered in the name of legal entities, but de facto owned by the V.P. family (evidenced and corroborated by the identification of several personal items, including family photos, on the premises).

The searches were carried out by PIAC representatives from the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police in France, with the participation of French investigating judges and prosecutors, assisted by members of the prosecution group from the Republic of Moldova.

One of the searched properties is a renovated villa located in the town of Sciez, in a residential neighborhood, on the shores of Lake Lemman. The second property is also located in Sciez, and represents an apartment with two parking spaces, located in a residential complex, with access to a tennis court and a swimming pool. At the time

of the criminal investigation, authorities found evidence indicating the property was used and managed by a close relative of V.P.

The third property is a traditional villa (chalet) for the alpine area, with a ground floor, first floor and attic, located at the upper level of the town of Combloux, on a plot of 21 acres, overlooking the top of Mont Blanc, with six bedrooms, office, library, recreation space with fireplace and bar, gym, sauna, wine storage room, cold room, garage for 8 transport units, boiler room and other utilities.

As a result of the executed searches, authorities seized cash in the amount of 92,000 euros and 3,000 Swiss francs, the origin of the money still yet to be established, with the subsequent application of the seizure. Authorities also seized digital devices, telephones and several documents to be investigated in the criminal case, including for providing additional information about other immovable and movable assets belonging to the V.P. family, such as the villa in Switzerland. In addition, authorities interviewed witnesses, who provided testimony indicating that the effective beneficiary of the goods subject to the search is V.P.

Before the searches were carried out, the seizures were applied on the assets mentioned above, in order to ensure the repair of the damage caused by the crimes charged.

In July 2023, the Anticorruption Prosecution Office sent a criminal case to court charging V.P. in his absence, being applied the preventive measure in the form of preventive arrest for a period of 30 days.

We express our gratitude and appreciation to the French authorities, including prosecutors and judges, for their considerable support in this complex operation. Close and effective collaboration between the two countries was essential for the success of the investigative actions carried out, with the goal of ensuring justice and enforcement of the law.

Note: A person accused of committing a crime is presumed innocent until proven guilty by a final court decision.

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**Additional Information:** <https://www.cna.md/libview.php?l=en&idc=5&id=5317&t=/Mass-Media/Events/Searches-on-the-territory-of-the-French-Republic-in-the-Bank-Fraud-criminal-case>

## THE INSPECTORATE OF PERSONNEL AND SECURITY SERVICES (IPSS), SPAIN.



### SEMINAR FOR THE VISIBILITY AND PROMOTION OF THE COMMITMENT OF THE STATE SECURITY FORCES AND CORPS TO RESPECT FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

The Directorate-General for Coordination and Studies (DGCE), through the Inspectorate of Personnel and Security Services (IPSS), has organized the Seminar for the visibility and promotion of the commitment of the State Security Forces and Corps to respect fundamental rights, taking advantage of the creation of the **National Office for the Guarantee of Human Rights (ONGADH)** on the 10 February 2022, by means of Instruction 1/2022, of the Secretary



of State for Security, incorporated into the IPSS, which concentrates the functions specified in section five of said Instruction 1/2022, which were already being carried out within the IPSS.

The novelty of the creation of this new mechanism was considered an incentive to hold a seminar whose objective was to promote a community forum in which to share experiences, knowledge and good practices, reinforcing the message to citizenship of the firm commitment of law enforcement officers to defend the exercise and enjoyment of fundamental rights, both in the face of possible external interference and possible malpractice within police institutions, as well as to serve as a reference for other member states and autonomous police forces.

The event was held between 28 and 30 November 2023, in Madrid, and was inaugurated by the head of the State Secretariat for Security, accompanied by the head of the Directorate General for Coordination and Studies and the Deputy Directorate General for the Inspection of Security Personnel and Services.



Source: IPSS

The seminar was attended by 67 people (participants and speakers) from different EU countries (Austria, Slovakia, Slovenia, France, Ireland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Romania) and Ukraine; representatives of Spanish institutions and organisations, the Secretary of State for Security, the Directorate General of the Police, the Directorate General of the Civil Guard and the regional police forces: Mossos d'Squadra, Ertzaintza and Policía Foral de Navarra.

The seminar began with an approach to police ethics and deontology from the point of view of a supervisory body, such as the Inspectorate of Personnel and Security Services, as well as from the eminently police perspective, through the Directorates General of the Police and the Civil Guard, to continue with an overview of the ethical codes of the State Security Forces and Bodies (FCSE) and their role as guarantors of Human Rights.

After an interesting analysis of human rights in the international framework, the participants went on to detail the fundamental role played by the recently created National Human Rights Guarantee Office within the IPSS, as well

as the Human Rights Areas of the General Directorate of the Police and the General Directorate of the Civil Guard, which make up the list of supervisory mechanisms of the Secretary of State for Security in this field.

After being introduced to the role of the Ministry of the Interior's bodies as guarantors of human rights, the seminar moved on to the different mechanisms for the control and guarantee of human rights that exist in other areas of Spain.

Thus, they have had the opportunity to learn about the activity in this field, with a unique perspective and approach, of the Constitutional Court, the Human Rights Area of the Sub-Directorate General for Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights of the Ministry of the Presidency, Justice and Relations with the Courts, and the Human Rights Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, to finally learn about the extensive activity carried out by the Ombudsman, as High Representative of the General Courts.

The seminar included a twinning dinner offered by the organization, which served to deepen the knowledge of the people and organizations present at the seminar in a more relaxed atmosphere conducive to building relationships that will last over time.

Throughout the seminar, the participants had the opportunity to share experiences and strengthen ties, considering that it was a very positive event and that the objectives set with its programming and development were fully achieved, constituting the seed for future similar actions in collaboration with the different countries of the European Union and the autonomous police forces.

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## AGENCY FOR PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION OF MONTENEGRO



### THE AGENCY FOR PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION OF MONTENEGRO PRESENTED THE METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES DURING THE TENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION IN ATLANTA, USA

The Montenegrin delegation, consisting of representatives from the Agency for Prevention of Corruption and the colleagues from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Montenegro, participated in this session in December 2023 and presented the Methodology for Assessing the Implementation of Anti-corruption Measures. The CoSP recognized it as relevant for presentation at a special panel, where representatives of member states, international organizations, and civil society discussed experiences and challenges in measuring corruption to enhance anti-corruption mechanisms and their effectiveness.

The Agency for Prevention of Corruption of Montenegro presented the Methodology for Assessing the Implementation of Anti-corruption Measures during this largest global anti-corruption gathering Atlanta, USA.

Developed in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) team in Montenegro, with the generous support of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission of Korea, the Methodology represents an innovative and evidence-based tool aimed at enhancing the integrity, transparency, and accountability of public institutions in Montenegro. Its purpose is to assess whether state authorities are implementing anti-corruption measures and whether their implementation has positive effects. At the same time, the Methodology encourages public institutions to be proactive in planning and implementing anti-corruption measures.

So far, the Agency has applied the Methodology to three systems: state administration, social and child welfare, and judiciary. The plan is to also apply it to state authorities from the remaining seven sectors in the upcoming period: local self-government, education, healthcare, state-owned enterprises, enterprises owned by local self-government units, independent and regulatory bodies, and culture.

Previously, the Agency underwent a rigorous screening process to meet strict criteria, and its application was accepted by the CoSP among 190 received applications

The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), adopted by the General Assembly in 2003, is the only legally binding international instrument to fight against corruption and is almost universally accepted, with 190 state parties. Montenegro ratified the Convention in 2005.

The CoSP meets every two years and adopts resolutions and decisions aimed at capacity building and cooperation among state parties to achieve the objectives of the Convention, as well as promoting and reviewing its implementation.



**EXPERT PRESENTATIONS**

 Chair: Giovanni Tartaglia, Legal Advisor, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

**The UNODC Statistical framework to measure corruption developed by UNODC**  
Angela Me, Director of Research, UNODC

**Integrity in Action**  
Boris Vukasinovic, Deputy Director, Agency for Prevention of Corruption of Montenegro

**Use of different data sources to measure corruption in Mexico**  
Rocio Stefany Olmos, Executive Director for the National Subsystem of Governance, Crime and Justice Statistics, Mexico

**The Methodology for measuring the effects of the Law on Corruption Prevention**  
Marijana Obradovic, Head of the Unit for Monitoring and Evaluation National Strategy Documents, Agency for Prevention of Corruption, Serbia

**Measuring corruption risks: OECD's public integrity indicators**

**Contact:** Ms. Jovana Pejovic, senior advisor in Section for International Cooperation, [jovana.pejovic@antikorupcija.me](mailto:jovana.pejovic@antikorupcija.me)

## NATIONAL PROTECTION SERVICE, HUNGARY

**INTERNATIONAL POLYGRAPH CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE NATIONAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE OF HUNGARY**

**Polygraph experts from 13 countries - Belgium, Republic of Srpska, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, the United States of America and Hungary - met in Budapest between 19 and 20 March 2024. The representative of the US polygraph instrument developing company also took part in the two-day event.**

Polygraph experts from 13 countries - Belgium, Republic of Srpska, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, the United States of America and Hungary - met in Budapest between 19 and 20 March 2024. The representative of the US polygraph instrument developing company also took part in the two-day event.

An American investigator used firstly the polygraph in 1921, after which its use spread worldwide. The National Protective Service is currently the only officially accredited law enforcement organisation in Hungary to carry out polygraph examinations. Its Criminal Psychological Lab, established in 2015, having national competences, operates currently with seven polygraph consultants, who perform nearly 800 polygraph tests per year upon the request of the investigating authorities and prosecutors' offices, mainly in cases involving crimes against life and bodily harm, sexual offences and crimes against property, in particular robbery, plundering and theft.

Polygraphs can also be used to prove innocence, giving people protection during procedures. As a result, many procedural actions are exempted for witnesses and suspects who can be excluded from the proceedings thanks to polygraph examinations.



The conference was convened to share current issues, experiences and good practices in this specific field. The speakers reviewed both scientific and practical perspective of this topic, and introduced the training systems of the represented country as well. All countries were given the opportunity to present their work. Particular attention was given to the expert of the FBI and a representative of a polygraph instrument developing company who gave an insight into innovations.

The National Protection Service plans to make the polygraph conference a regular event.

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**Additional Information:**

<https://www.facebook.com/Nemzetivedelmiszolgalat/posts/pfbid0mz2d2dnhohvq87cubpH5hNpfwWguUteyjoHRAkH3XsRpCav5qDBtoyCD7BBb1eTYI>





## NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU OF UKRAINE (NABU)



### ENHANCING BUREAU'S EFFECTIVENESS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, FIGHTING CORRUPTION FOR UKRAINE'S EFFECTIVE RECOVERY — NABU'S CORE PRIORITIES

In 2023, the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) witnessed its most successful year to date, marking a significant milestone in the country's fight against corruption. Notably, in 2023, NABU pursued charges against numerous high-ranking officials, including nine Members of Parliament, twelve local and regional council members, one minister along with six deputy ministers, nine judges (including four from the Kyiv Court of Appeal and the Head of the Supreme Court), five executives of governmental bodies and their deputies, two prosecutors, and a variety of other individuals including company owners and legal professionals.

During 2023 representatives of the National Bureau held a series of meetings with international partners, including the European Public Prosecutor's Office, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR), the European External Action Service (EEAS) and various Directorates-General in the European Commission. Pierre Elbrun, Special Envoy of the President of France, during a meeting with the NABU leadership, stressed that transparency of processes and absence of corruption are the best guarantees for investment in Ukraine. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Jennes de Mol, supported Director Semen Kryvonos' desire for cooperation and proposals for training and exchange of experience. During the meeting with the staff of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies and representatives of the US Congress, the Director spoke in detail about the principles of independence and effectiveness of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine and stressed its revolutionary role in combating top corruption.

Representatives of the National Bureau attended the plenary session of the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN). The ACN noted Ukraine's progress in developing anti-corruption institutions and highly appreciated their achievements.

To ensure wide dissemination of information aimed at increasing the legal awareness of the public, the podcasts "Poplava. Anti-Corruption in Detail" and "NABU Secrets" featuring the National Bureau's detectives were published on YouTube. Video commentaries, clarifications and updates on anti-corruption legislation are regularly distributed on social media and on the NABU's official website. Throughout the reporting period, NABU implemented 12 educational projects, including the Anti-Corruption Camp, the NABU's Anti-Corruption School, the All-Ukrainian Anti-Corruption Moot Court 3.0, webinars, trainings, conferences, forums, and introductory visits for students of Ukrainian higher education institutions.

**Additional Information:** <https://reports.nabu.gov.ua/en/>



## NATIONAL INTEGRITY AGENCY, ROMANIA



### IMPLEMENTING AN EFFICIENT AND ROBUST INTEGRITY FRAMEWORK THROUGH THE EU TECHNICAL SUPPORT INSTRUMENT (TSI)

**The National Integrity Agency (ANI), in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, became beneficiary of the EU TSI project „Support in Implementation of the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Framework in Romania, Including Reducing the Risk of Corruption in Public Procurement”.**

In December of 2023, the National Integrity Agency successfully finalized the *NIAct Project* which effectively addressed the issue of fragmentation and inconsistencies in the integrity legislative framework. The project concluded with the development of a draft legislation proposal, which will alleviate this problem within the Romanian legal system.

To ensure a seamless continuation of the finalized project, ANI launched a new project, funded by the European Commission under the Technical Support Instrument (TSI).

The project foresees the offering of technical assistance by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on the implementation of Romania's ongoing integrity framework reform and on increasing the level of integrity in public procurement, including the reduction of vulnerabilities and the risk of corruption.

Over the course of the next year, ANI shall actively engage with the OECD experts by organizing fact-finding missions with all the relevant national stakeholders in order to achieve the desired results. The subsequent reports shall also contribute to improving the conflict of interest system and streamlining the declaration verification process, improving the implementation of the EU Directive on the protection of whistleblowers and mitigating the risks of undue influence, with a focus on pantouflage.

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## III

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

### INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION ACADEMY, AUSTRIA



**IACA continues to be a leading provider of anti-corruption education, offering a wide range of innovative post-graduate programmes, trainings, courses, and panel discussions. It develops research and facilitates collaboration on anti-corruption issues at the local, national, and international level.**

Applications are open for various IACA's academic programmes, in particular: the Master in Anti-Corruption Studies; the International Master in Anti-Corruption Compliance and Collective Action; the Master in Anti-Corruption Studies and Compliance (in Spanish); and the Master on Anti-corruption and Diplomacy - the latter developed jointly with the United Nations institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

The IACA Summer Academy is scheduled to take place from 8 to 14 June 2024 at IACA campus.



Various online, instructor-led and self-paced courses are open, covering diverse topics including whistleblower protection techniques, anti-corruption compliance, corporate investigation, ethics and integrity management and technology in anti-corruption.

Tailor-made trainings addressing the specific anti-corruption and compliance needs of individual organizations are being offered virtually and in-house.

The Regional Alumni Conference – Africa edition is to be implemented in Nairobi, Kenya from 6 to 10 May 2024. This event provides a regional platform for the IACA alumni network to learn about new trends in the fight against corruption, to network and exchange ideas.



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The Academy officially launched the third cohort of the Anti-Corruption Collective Action Certificate. Students from around the globe are combining intense learning activities with the practical implementation of collective action projects.

Detailed information on all initiatives, trainings and academic programmes of the Academy is available on IACA website.

**Additional Information:** <https://www.iaca.int>  
<https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes.html>  
<https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/open-trainings/summer-academy.html>  
<https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/online-trainings/instructor-led.html>  
<https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/online-trainings/self-paced.html>  
<https://collective-action.iaca.int/>  
[iaca integrity-and-anti-corruption-compliance-in-sport\\_research-paper\\_final.pdf](#)  
**Contact:** IACA Secretariat, [mail@iaca.int](mailto:mail@iaca.int)

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EUROPEAN ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE (OLAF)



## OLAF TRAINING FOR UKRAINE'S ANTI-FRAUD AND ANTI-CORRUPTION AUTHORITIES

The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) organised a three-day training event in Brussels for Ukraine's anti-fraud and anti-corruption authorities from 19 to 21 February 2024. The training came at a key moment for the EU and Ukraine, as it will help protect the 50 billion euro aid that the EU is starting to disburse under the Ukraine Facility.

The aim of the training was to keep strengthening OLAF's cooperation with the Ukrainian authorities and to provide capacity building, for example on the use of open source research for investigations and interviewing techniques. The programme included practical, hands-on sessions with case studies and interactive workshops.

There were 40 participants from the relevant national authorities: the State Audit Service, the Economic Security Bureau of Ukraine, the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, the Specialised Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office, the Prosecutor-General's Office, the State Customs Service, the Ministry of Finance, and the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

[Welcoming the participants, OLAF Director-General said: "OLAF has been working with the Ukrainian authorities for many years now, since well before Russia's war. OLAF is an anti-fraud body, so we are not on the military front. But we are fighting on the anti-corruption and anti-fraud front. We want to make sure that the cooperation with the Ukrainian authorities is as smooth and efficient as possible so that we can protect EU funds together; and we want to support national capacities, because the role of the Ukrainian authorities will be key in the future. We need each other to effectively protect the 50 billion of the Ukraine Facility".]



OLAF's training event contributed to implementing the action plan of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy. One of its actions is to support Ukraine by providing capacity building to protect EU funding from fraud and corruption.

The event was financed from the Union Anti-Fraud Programme (UAFP). The UAFP is a line of EU funding that is managed by OLAF on behalf of the European Commission to support national authorities in the EU and in associated countries in their fight against fraud.



**Additional Information:** [https://anti-fraud.ec.europa.eu/media-corner/news/olaf-trains-ukrainian-anti-fraud-authorities-2024-02-20\\_en](https://anti-fraud.ec.europa.eu/media-corner/news/olaf-trains-ukrainian-anti-fraud-authorities-2024-02-20_en)

## EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS (ECA)



**European Court of Auditors (ECA) has just published special report 03/2024 “The rule of law in the EU: an improved framework to protect the EU’s financial interests, but risks remain”, led by ECA Member Annemie Turtelboom.**

Rule-of-law breaches can now be addressed more effectively since the EU’s legal framework was bolstered in January 2021 by the Conditionality Regulation. Together with other protective mechanisms under the Recovery and Resilience Facility and cohesion policy, the framework provides for the possibility of budgetary measures against such breaches in member states. However, the fundamental-values shield in place has weak points, and does not yet guarantee full protection of the EU’s financial interests, says the ECA.

Click [here](#) to consult the special report and the press release in 24 EU languages.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information about the ECA’s work or visit our website at [eca.europa.eu](https://eca.europa.eu). To access the ECA’s publications, click [here](#).



**Contact:** European Court of Auditors, Directorate of the Presidency, Institutional Liaison e-mail: [ECA-InstitutionalRelations@eca.europa.eu](mailto:ECA-InstitutionalRelations@eca.europa.eu)

**Additional Information:** [eca.europa.eu](https://eca.europa.eu)



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**The European Court of Auditors (ECA) has just published special report 05/2024 “EU Transparency Register: provides useful but limited information on lobbying activities”, led by ECA Member Jorg Kristijan Petrovič.**

Lobbying EU lawmakers can still slip under the radar, the auditors say. The EU transparency register, which provides information on who lobbies the Commission, Parliament, and Council, has positive features and informs citizens about the potential influence of lobbyists. However, it suffers from weaknesses and information gaps that make lobbying activities in the three largest EU institutions less transparent. Furthermore, lobbyists can bypass the register for a range of interactions where they can still influence EU lawmakers.

The special report and the press release in 24 EU languages can be found [here](#).

**Contact:** European Court of Auditors, Directorate of the Presidency, Institutional Liaison e-mail: [ECA-InstitutionalRelations@eca.europa.eu](mailto:ECA-InstitutionalRelations@eca.europa.eu)

**Additional Information:** [eca.europa.eu](http://eca.europa.eu)

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INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND DIALOGUE, IPD



## 14TH IPD SUMMER ACADEMY IN BASEL

**We are glad to invite you to the coming 14th International Summer Academy on Peacebuilding, Conflict Solution, Mediation, Justice, International Security, Leadership & Intercultural Dialogue organising by Institute for Peace and Dialogue, IPD. SA will take place in Basel, Switzerland during the 5 - 21 August 2024 at the Hotel Rheinfelderhof.**

This event will be useful to get academic knowledge and as well work-field based experience by involved experienced experts and spend fruitful-unforgettable summer time in Switzerland.

To register Summer Academy you need to fill the application form and send us by email to [fhuseynli@ipdinstitute.ch](mailto:fhuseynli@ipdinstitute.ch) or via WhatsApp, LinkedIn address till the

- Early Bird Application Deadline: 30 April, 2024

- Late Application Deadline: 1 July, 2024

Participants from all over world countries who working in **State Institutions, INGOs, IOs, Companies, Universities or Individual Researchers** and as well **Individuals** who are interested on peacebuilding, conflict transformation, intercultural-interfaith dialogue, mediation, negotiation, leadership, international security and etc. related topics are most welcome to join and be part of our coming summer academy.

The main goal of the **14th Summer Academy** is to strengthen the skills of the representatives from state institutions, business sector, INGOs/NGOs, education institutions, religious organisations, independent



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mediators, politicians and students through academic and as well work-field base trainings in peacebuilding, mediation, conflict resolution, international security leadership and intercultural dialogue fields. Participation in 14th Summer Academy gives the participants education and network to build their future career worldwide level in state, private and public sectors as peace builder, manager, lawyer, diplomat, human resource officer, mediator, international and public relations manager, mentor, coacher and in etc. relevant jobs.

We are looking forward to receive your application soon and welcome you as one of our participants.

**Contact:** If you have any questions feel free to contact us by email or LinkedIn address <https://www.linkedin.com/in/fakhrinur-huseynli-574776223/>.

**Additional Information:** For more information about the summer programs call is available online at <https://www.ipdinstitute.ch/Trainings-Events/>





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## INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE



**EPAC/EACN IS ORGANISING A WORKSHOP „COMMON VISION FOR INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ON ANTI-CORRUPTION AND POLICE OVERSIGHT,, IN THE MARGIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE.**

**There are scarcely any internationally binding standards and guidelines containing a set of standards for anti-corruption or police-oversight authorities. Each country is developing its own system. When democracy and the rule of law are constantly challenged, a common set of standards on anti-corruption is long overdue. EPAC/EACN is actively encouraging to step up!**

The International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) is the world's premier global forum for bringing together heads of state, civil society, the private sector and more to tackle the increasingly sophisticated challenges posed by corruption. Established in 1983, the IACC takes place usually every two years in a different region of the world, and hosts from 800 to 2000 participants from over 135 countries worldwide.

The 21st IACC is hosted by the Government of Lithuania, represented by the Special Investigation Services. It will take place in Vilnius, from 18 -21 June 2024.

EPAC/EACN Secretariat proposed workshop „Common vision for international standards on anti-corruption and police oversight“ and was selected to be part of the Programme of the upcoming 21st International Anti-Corruption Conference.

### **Moderator:**

- Drago Kos (Slovenia)

### **Panellists:**

- Laura Valli, Board Member of the Italian National Anticorruption Authority (ANAC) and Chair of the Network of European Authorities for Whistleblowing and Integrity (NEIWA), Italy
- Hugh Hume, Commissioner at Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission, Deputy Vice-President of EPAC/EACN for police oversight, Ireland
- Egidijus Radzevičius, Deputy Director of the Special Investigation Service, Lithuania
- Lea Brenton, Senior international officer of Agence française anticorruption (AFA), France
- France Chain, Senior Legal Analyst in the OECD Anti-Corruption Division, France

**See you in Vilnius**  
**18-21 JUNE**

